

FOOD ALLERGIES

The Board of Education recognizes that students may have food allergies and suffer food-induced anaphylaxis, a sudden, severe, potentially fatal, systemic allergic reaction that can involve various areas of the body. Symptoms can occur within minutes to hours after contact with the allergy-causing substance and these reactions can be mild to life threatening. The safety of students in school programs is a primary responsibility of the Board of Education. Therefore, it is imperative that the parents/guardians of students with food allergies and/or anaphylaxis to food ensure that such information is part of the mandated physical examination record and, in addition, must inform the Building Principal and the school nurse of such conditions. The parent/guardian must provide the Building Principal and school nurse with an emergency action plan completed by the student's physician as soon as the student is diagnosed with a food allergy or anaphylaxis to food. The Building Principal and the school nurse will notify the pertinent school staff and will work with the parent/guardian to develop an Individual Health Plan (IHP), and to implement appropriate accommodations for each food allergic or anaphylactic student in accordance with the IHP.

The Board of Education recognizes a student's health and safety may be contingent upon the timely administration of medication duly prescribed by a physician, and that the Board of Education must follow the physician mandated, written Emergency Medical Protocol (EMP) provided to the school by the student's physician through the parents. Any administration of medications to students in school will be in accordance with Policy 5141.21 Administering Medication and applicable laws. The Board of Education disclaims any and all responsibility if the food allergic or anaphylactic student is injured as a result of this policy, provided that the IHP and the EMP were appropriately followed.

The Building Principal and the school nurse will take precautions to ensure the safety of students with food allergies and anaphylaxis to food. Examples of precautions may include but are not limited to:

- A. Designating peanut and tree nut free tables, as required;
- B. Establishing allergy aware classrooms, as required;
- C. Implementing a zero tolerance program for bullying with regard to food allergies or anaphylaxis;
- D. Educating the school community including the students, faculty, staff, and parents about food allergies and the school's food allergy policy (i.e., letters from Building Principal or school nurse to parents; written policy in school handbook; classroom education, and presentations at faculty meetings and parent/teacher conferences);
- E. Communicating and enforcing a no food sharing policy

Because food is provided to students by outside vendors, parent organizations and parent donations, the District will not know the ingredients used in the preparation of all food and beverage items served within the school. Therefore, the parents/guardians and/or the student with food allergies or anaphylaxis to food must be responsible for not purchasing or consuming

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any food products sold or provided in the school since such food may cause an allergic or anaphylactic reaction.

Although the Board of Education is attempting to reduce the use of food in the classroom during school hours there will be occasions where food and/or beverages will be served as part of a classroom experience, field trip and/or classroom celebration. Because the ingredients of these food products will not be fully known, a student with anaphylaxis to food should not consume any such food products. The teacher will provide the student and parents/guardians with advance notice of the classroom experience, field trip and/or classroom celebration in order to discuss effective and efficient alternatives or substitutions for the student.

The IHP and EMP will dictate necessary accommodations for field trips and other school activities. If necessary accommodations cannot be provided according to the EMP plan, the activity may be modified for all students.

All emergency medications and a copy of the IHP and EMP for each student must be brought on every trip. In addition, a cell phone must be available on each trip in case of emergency. The District's field trip request forms will be revised to include the provision of the above.

The school nurse or trained designee will provide training to all school staff in order for them to better understand food allergies, recognize symptoms, know what to do in an emergency situation. The school nurse or trained designee will also work with other appropriate staff to eliminate or substitute the use of food allergens in the allergic student's meals, educational/instructional tools and materials, arts and crafts projects, or incentives

<u>Legal References:</u>	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-1	General and mandatory duties of the Board
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:16-6, -6.1	Indemnity of officers and employees against civil actions ...
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-12.3	Self-administration of medication
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-12.6	Policy requirements

<u>Cross References:</u>	*3542	Food service
	*4112.4	Employee health
	*4212.4	Employee health
	*5141.2	Illness
	*5141.3	Health examinations and immunizations
	*5141.21	Administering medication
	*5142	Student safety

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

Key Words

Anaphylaxis, Food Induced Anaphylaxis, Emergency Medical Protocol, EMP, Individual Health Plan IHP, Allergic Reaction, Cross Contamination of Food

Approved: April 28, 2008

Revised: